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April 29, 1988

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
401 Peerman
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Dear Dr. Garcia:

It is my pleasure to inform you that our ground-breaking ceremonies held on March 19 were a great success! Several hundred supporters were on hand to celebrate the event with numerous dignitaries, including our keynote speaker, the First Lady of Texas, Rita Clements. **Construction is now in progress.**

Fund-raising efforts are proceeding well. To date, we have raised over \$9 million from private benefactors and \$14.5 million from public benefactors. Of our 1987-88 goal, \$10 million, we have raised nearly \$4.3 million. We expect to make significant progress towards completing our '87-88 goal by the end of the year.

It is incumbent upon me to alert you to the fact that a lawsuit has been filed by Helen A. Royal/Breakwater Corporation against the City of Corpus Christi and the Texas State Aquarium Association. The suit alleges that the selection process used to select a general contractor was inappropriate, and hence, the City's participation in the project should be stopped.

Our method of selecting a general contractor was based on advice given by consultants experienced in the construction of large public aquariums, and insures the most efficient and cost effective construction process. With concurrence of the City, the selection of the general contractor, and subsequently, selection of the subcontractors was divided into two phases: phase 1, a general contractor was selected on competitive bid/evaluation basis; and phase 2, subcontractors will be selected on a competitive bid/evaluation basis.


As usual, there is more to this issue than meets the eye. The plaintiff, Helen A. Royal, owns property which the City is acquiring through condemnation proceedings to improve public streets and parking facilities in the area surrounding the aquarium site. She is currently negotiating the fair market value of this property with the City.

As trustees, we have obligations not only to our public benefactors, but just as importantly, to our private benefactors. It is our responsibility to insure that all monies given to support the Texas State Aquarium are spent in a manner that produces the greatest value for the dollar.

We believe our case is strong, and we will prevail. The suit is expected to delay the input of \$10 million of City money for up to six months. Otherwise, the project continues on schedule.

The Texas State Aquarium is destined to be one of the bright spots of Texas--an accomplishment and asset for which we can all be proud. I appreciate your continued support. Please feel free to call me (512-880-7500) or our Executive Director, Dr. Quenton Dokken (512-851-2595), should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,


John Dorn
President

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